G. R. S. App. F. IX-4]

Previous References.

1942-3

(War)

War **File No.** 167-42

Serial Nos. 182.

Later References.

P10

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT

Serial Nos. Two only.

Part B for February 1943.

SUBJECT.

Permission for Alfred Chakhovskoi Brabant to take up a post as manager of a coffee estate in Mysore.

12.2.43.

2327/W.

Permission for Alfred Chakhovskoi-Brabant to take up a Post as manager of coffee

Continuation Sheet. W File No. Current No. 164 of 42-3 Sheet in Page. Nyasa.

Sh.1 Brabant to the Hon'ble the Resident F.11/40/W. of 30th Dec. 43 forwarding application of Alfred Brabant requesting whether there is any objection to Brabant taking up the post of Manager of Kamilka Estate Tadaa Nyasa Province

Submitted for favour of orders whether the Govt may be consulted in the first instance as to whether there is any objection to Mr Brabant taking up the post

Forwarded with compliments to the Inspector General of Police for favour of remarks

Secretariat Zomba 1/2/43

(RS) 1/2/43

Sec

P.L.O. No. 78/W. dated 1.2.1943.

Received orders Commissioner. It seems to be in advisable to agree to this person taking such a post. The estate lies in an out of the way back area and it is very difficult to arrange for effective supervision of his activities.

J M Beckerley

D.C.P. 6/2/43

Mr Rodney for information accordingly.

[illegible] 8.2.43 4/2 9/2

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION
Date 6.2.43
No. 3853

Subd with a draft reply to U Rly.

RS 9/2

2. Issue Pd. 1636 d 9th Feb. 40 to U Rly.

37941 W

W 167-42-1 2327 W.

SECRET.
URGENT.

No. F. 11-43/IV

Encl (2)

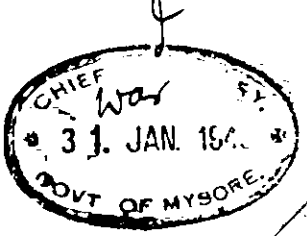
*The reply to this communication should be addressed to the Secretary to the Resident in Mysore, Bangalore, by designation and not by name.

FROM

THE SECRETARY
TO THE HON'BLE THE RESIDENT IN MYSORE.

To

The Chief Secretary to the Government of
His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore,
Bangalore.



Dated Bangalore, the 30th January 1942.3.

Permission for Alfred Chakhovskoi Brabant to take up a post as manager of a coffee estate in Mysore.

SIR,

I am directed to say that Alfred Chakhovskoi Brabant, an evacuee in the British Evacuee Camp at Coimbatore, has applied to the Government of Madras for permission to take up a post as manager of a coffee estate in the Mysore State. It is reported that the name of the estate is Kathlekan Estate, Tadasa, Kadur P.O.; it consists of 536 acres of cultivated land and is situated in West Mysore near the boundary separating Mysore from Madras.

2. Brabant, though technically British born, is reported to be pro-German in his outlook and sympathies, and in view of this the Government of Madras found it necessary to restrict his movements to a certain area in Coimbatore, so that he would not have an opportunity of endangering the Allied cause. A C.I.D. note on him is enclosed. The Commandant of the Evacuee Camp recommends however that Brabant may be allowed to take on the post, as he has never had reason to complain of his behaviour or loyalty since he has been in the camp. I am to

enquire

enquire whether the Government of Mysore have any objection to Brabant taking up the post. Perhaps the Mysore police could arrange for adequate surveillance of Brabant's activities if he is permitted to take the appointment.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

SECRETARY TO THE RESIDENT.

VN

NOTE ON A. C. BRABANT.

Name with titles: Brabant is neither his christian name nor his Surname but is that of a one time Royal family in Europe from which he traces his ancestry. According to him his christian name is Alfred Valentine Alexander and his name of rank is "Prince Chakshovskoi Brabant". By combining the words underlined he has adopted a simpler name "A.C.Brabant" His printed visiting card shows him as "Prince Alfred Chakhovskoi Brabant, 27th Prince of Yaroslav". In a letter which he sent to the Cochin Police he signed his name as Prince Alfred of Brabant. He says that he is entit to use the following titles which he has inherited from generation to generation: -

1. Prince of Yaroslav.
2. Baron Brebern.
3. Count of Tula (Tula is a town in Russia).
4. Count of Costromo (Costromo is a town in Russia).
5. Count of Ypenburg (Ypenburg is a town in Denmark).
6. Duke of Moscow.
7. Boyar of Glebov.
8. Boyar of Novgorod (Boyar is a title and Novgorod is a town in Russia).
9. Boyar of Strechney, and
10. Exalted protector of Kiev.

Parentage: He is the son of John Frederick, a Dutch Born naturalised British subject, who died some 14 years ago. His mother, Mrs.Meta Freder a German national, became a British subject through her marriage. Her last address was 1, Lindenstrasse, Germany. His parents were residing in Transvall in South Africa where his father was a shareholder in a Mining company. Brabant was born a British subject in Transvall (South Africa) on 21/1/06. He holds British passport No.C 60582 dated 9/8/39 issued by the British Consul at Sophia. His sisters, the Countess Lerchanfeld and Mrs.Marian Von Eschig are in Wasserpurg in Germany.

Early Life: When he was five years of age, his parents left the Transvaal for Europe. He was sent to Germany to be educated at the Halle University from where he obtained degrees in science and agriculture in 1930 at the age of 24. His father stayed in Holland being an estate owner and a shareholder in a shipping company there. Brabant, however, on the completion of his education was sent to Bavaria to be in charge of another estate of his. After a few months he visited Austria, Czechoslovakia, Italy, France, Switzerland and other European countries and returned to Holland to see his father. In the meanwhile his brother-in-law, Count Lerchemfeld who was the chairman of a tobacco trust in Plovdiv in Bulgaria invited him to look after his interests. Brabant left for Bulgaria in 1935 and remain there for about 6 years. While here he took out shares to the value of £5000/- and became a partner in the Mossinoff Tobacco Co., Plovdiv. A few days prior to the invasion of Bulgaria by the Germans he was instructed by the British Consul there to leave the country to avoid being interned as a British subject by the Germans. He left Bulgaria on 23/2/41 for Istanbul with 25 Turkish pounds which he was permitted to take. The British Consul at Istanbul afforded him facilities for travelling to India via Baghdad and Basra (by train) and thence by s.s.Rohna to Karachi and by s.s.Rajula for Bombay which he reached on 30/4/41 along with 40 British refugees. At Bombay he stayed for some time in Colaba and in the Y.M.C.A.

Friends and contacts and movements in India: After two months stay at Bombay he was offered a job as a chemist in Messrs.Burn & Co., Calcutta Whe he proceeded in July 1941 and stayed in the Spencers Hotel, but as the management of this company wanted a specialist in waterproofing in which line Brabant was not qualified he could not join this post. Hence he returned to Bombay where after a stay of about three weeks more he again left for Calcutta as one Major Hobbs, Manager of Spencers Hotel, Calcutta whose acquaintance he had made during his last visit promised to fix him up in some business. He was introduced by Major Hobbs to the managers of many of the British firms in Calcutta such as Martin and Co., Jardine Skinner, The Imperial Tobacco Co., etc. He was told by these firms that they were waiting for some permits (the nature of which is not known) from the military authorities to employ him. He therefore stayed for 9 weeks in Calcutta stopping in Spencers Hotel and eventually finding no prospect of obtaining a suitable employment.

while

While at Calcutta, however, he came in contact with the Indian owner of "Frontier Theatres Ltd.", who is said to own about a dozen cinema shows in various military centres in India. He was offered a job as the European manager of a Show and sent to Bannu (N.W.Province). On his way he visited Benares, Lahore, etc., places for sight-seeing. He stayed for about three weeks in Bannu waiting for a military permit to proceed to Razmack where he was asked to proceed by his employer. The Military authorities probably did not think it wise or safe to issue him with a permit and he returned to Bombay in October 1941 and saw the Balkan refugees Reception Committee who sent him to the Satara camp which had been opened by that time. After a stay of about three months he was sent to the Coimbatore evacuees camp which he joined on 24/1/42.

Contact with Luiz: While Brabant was on his way from the Satara camp to Coimbatore A.A.D.Luiz, an Anglo-Indian estate owner and Timber merchant of Ernakulam (Cochin State), who was travelling in the same train from Madras to Ernakulam on 23/1/42 finding a number of evacuees in the train on the Jalarpet platform tried to question some of them as to who they were and where they were proceeding. As many of the refugees did not know English, Brabant answered him. Incidentally he told Luiz that he owned an estate in Europe though he was reduced to nothing on account of the German invasion. This reference to an estate (Luiz is also an estate owner) brought the two people to a closer contact. During the course of their conversation in the train from Jalarpet, Luiz suggested to Brabant that he would be pleased to entertain him at Ernakulam for a few days to enjoy his company, if permission could be obtained from the authorities at Coimbatore. Brabant accepted this invitation. At Erode they separated and Brabant continued his journey to Coimbatore while Luiz went on to Ernakulam.

Some days after his meeting with Brabant in the Railway train Luiz wrote to Brabant that he was going to Coimbatore on some business and would meet him if he (Brabant) were free. Brabant replied that he would be delighted to meet him. Accordingly Luiz came to Coimbatore on 1/3/42 and stayed in the Hotel Majestic. It may be mentioned here that Luiz and his two younger brothers used to visit Coimbatore very often on business. On this occasion he used to pick up Brabant in his car and go about the town for sight-seeing and to the pictures. Once he suggested to Brabant that he was in need of an evacuee woman to work as a house keeper. Brabant suggested to him the name of an elderly lady Mrs.Mathews (an Austrian by birth and a British subject by marriage). Luiz saw her but did not come to any conclusions. On another occasion he met Mrs.N.Worsley whose loose morals in the evacuees camp is an open scandal. Luiz took her and Brabant in his car for a drive in Coimbatore and gave a small party in the Hotel Majestic. On some other occasion he took out a few more of the other good looking girls in the camp for a drive in the town. Luiz himself told me, when his vanity was tickled, that in the evacuee camp there were many young well-built good-looking girls and that was one of the attractions there. During his four days stay at Coimbatore he interviewed Col.Marshall, Officer in charge of the evacuee camp, Coimbatore and obtained permission from him to take Brabant with him to his house at Ernakulam on a holiday. They left Coimbatore on 4/3/42, Luiz as the host meeting all Brabant's expenses. They reached Ernakulam on 5/3/42 and Brabant stayed in Luiz's house at Perumanur, a portion of Ernakulam. Brabant was taken out often by his host in his car for joy rides. Twice they visited Alwaye to see Luiz's mother. Once they visited Malayathur (Travancore State) the headquarters of the District Forest Officer to meet him in connection with some work which Luiz had. On a number of occasions they went out for shopping. It is quite possible that during one of their pleasure trips by car in the town, Brabant has seen the aerodrome.

Brabant spent a great part of his time in reading books and journals supplied by his host. He is a radio enthusiast, and as at Coimbatore where he is reported to have been listening to foreign broadcasts he was found devoting a considerable part of his time switching on the radio and listening to music and news, sometimes in foreign languages which he understood very well as he knows a number of languages. He talks good English and appears to be well-read. He

dislikes

dislikes the Greek and Maltese evacuees, and he says that they ~~are~~ all are from the lower strata of society. He was married in Germany in 1931 to Miss Leonara Scheidl, a German national. She remained with Brabant for a short period only and left him on account of domestic misunderstandings. She was last in Italy. She was finally divorced by Brabant in 1939 while he was in Bulgaria.

A very reliable source of Madras whom I found in Ernakulam and who has had a long chat some days ago with Brabant about his experiences as a refugee told me that he had expressed no pro-Nazi views and even when dragged into conversation on political subjects he found him expressing no opinion, being more of a listener. But one thing that struck the source was that Brabant told him that in the camp there was one Mrs.Worsley who was once a member of the International Secret Service in Baghdad. This is the self-same woman against whose morals there is much talk in the camp. It is odd that this woman told the commandant of the Refugee Camp that Brabant was a dangerous man. That there is great friendship between Brahant and this woman cannot be denied. Braba returned to the Coimbatore evacuees camp on 18/3/42. When I paid a visit to the evacuees camp on 19/3/42 I found Brabant and Mrs.Worsley talking together very cordially and Col.Marshall, the Commandant himself, pointed out this to me.

----:0:----

Appendix F. G.—1]

SUBJECT.....

.....

.....

Section War

File No. 167-42

Serial No. 2

Diary No. of letter replied to.....

General and Revenue Secretariat

( )

the *194* .

Date of issue 9/2/43

Signed by..... Mr S.K.V. Iyer

No. Pol 1636

To The Secy to the Hon'ble the Rt Permission for Alfred Chakkarovski Barbant to take up a post as Manager of a coffee estate in Mysore

Sir.

With ref to your letter No F. 11-43/W dated 30th Jan 43 on the above subject. I am directed to state that the Govt are not in favour of Mr. Barbant taking up the post as Manager of the Kattekan Estate. Kaur P.O.

I have etc

for

Secy to Govt

Memo No 3394/W.2 Chief Secy to Govt

Copy for I.G.P. with ref to his U.O. No.

for

List of enclosures.....

.....

Copied by.....

.....

Examined by.....

WD 04161—GPB—60,000—24-10-41

GOVERNMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE

General and Revenue Secretariat,

No. Pol 1636 / Misc 167-42-2 *Bangalore, Dated,* 9th February 1943.

From

The Chief Secretary to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.

To

The Secretary to the Hon'ble the Resident in Mysore, Bangalore.

Sir,

Permission for Alfred Chakhovskoi Brabant to take up a post as Manager of a Coffee estate in Mysore.

***

With reference to your letter No.F.11-43/W dated 30th January 1943 on the above subject, I am directed to state that this Government are not in favour of permitting Mr. Brabant to take up the post as Manager of the Kathlekan Estate, Kadur P.O.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
(Sd) J. Appaji Gowda,

Chief Secretary to Government.

P.T.O.

Memo No. 3394/43

Dated, Bangalore, 9th February 1943.

Copy of the foregoing is forwarded, with compliments to the Inspector General of Police in Mysore, with reference to his Un-official note. dated 4th February 1943.

By Order,

For Chief Secretary to Governmen